

Response to Recommendation 2: The City of St. Helena agrees with this recommendation.

The City of St. Helena finalized an Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) in March 2003. The Urban Water Management Plan outlines the City's available supply, projected demands, and need for water conservation. From the finalization of this UWMP, St. Helena is in the process of updating its' water conservation program and now has staff time dedicated to this end. Current water conservation regulations include a toilet retrofit and rebate program, drought tolerant landscape requirement for new development, prohibition of water waste including fines, as well as provisions for more stringent regulations during periods of drought. Additions to the existing water conservation program include public outreach programs through community events, in-school educational programs, informational material, commercial surveys and partnerships. St. Helena is working towards increased community involvement regarding water use-efficiency and conservation and is in discussion with other agencies for a county wide conservation group. In 2001, St. Helena began studying the feasibility of a recycled water project to use reclaimed water for irrigation. The City has been working with the community and businesses to hear their thoughts and concerns regarding this proposal; this summer the first pilot study was completed.

The City of St. Helena is proposing to upgrade its wastewater treatment plant to add tertiary treatment adequate to meet State Title 22 requirements for wastewater reclamations. In order to meet future wastewater treatment and irrigation demand, the City is considering an increase in plant capacity from the current 0.50 mgd dry weather design flow to 0.9 mgd. The project will include distribution pipelines to convey the recycled water between the treatment plant and the irrigation sites. (Within the City limits, there are approximately 1,550 acres of irrigated vineyard area and approximately 60 acres of irrigated turf area.) The City's existing effluent disposal site adjacent to the treatment plant will continue to be used or competitively leased to a vineyard operator with the City providing recycled water for irrigation. The project will offset approximately 20% of the City's current potable water supply being used for irrigation in addition to reducing the amount of privately pumped groundwater.

These comments are respectfully submitted for the City of St. Helena, as approved by the St. Helena City Council at their regular meeting of August 26, 2003.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bert Johansson", written in a cursive style.

Bert Johansson
City Manager